

Network in the News **January 2008**

California Workforce Association Youth Conference goes Beach!

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network (Network) played host this year to the California Workforce Association's (CWA) Annual Youth Conference at the Renaissance Hotel. Last summer, twenty-five individuals from local youth-serving organizations and Youth Opportunity Center staff assisted the CWA in planning the conference. Bryan Rogers, the Network's Executive Director, made welcoming remarks at the conference. The Network and the Port hosted a Long Beach Harbor boat tour, framed around the topic of careers in the transportation and logistics industries. The conference was well attended, with 350 workforce professionals and youth from throughout the State of California.

Long Beach Officials Kick Off the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program – Center for Working Families and Harbor WorkSource Center

Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster; 7th District Councilmember Tonya Uranga; Bryan Rogers, Executive Director of Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network; and Donnicus Cook, Executive Director of Broad Spectrum Community Development, kicked-off the 2008 Tax Season Campaign – Free Tax Preparation and Financial Services for Low-income Working Families at the Long Beach Job Corps Center. The EITC is a scalable credit that provides the greatest benefits to those who earn between nine and twelve thousand dollars a year. For those families with two or more children, the credit may be worth up to \$4,500. The data shows that nationally, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has lifted 4.8 million working people above the federal poverty line – including 2.6 million children of low-income workers. Qualified residents may call now for an appointment to at (562) 570-4794.



Wanted – Youth Providers with Creativity

On January 23, a Request for Proposals for Youth vendors was issued. The Network is looking for organizations that can provide programs focused on occupational skills training and placement, and emphasizes collaborative efforts between education/business/labor partners. Organizations will have six weeks to prepare their proposals. The Network is anticipating between three and seven awards, for a total of approximately \$1.3M over a two-year period.

New Space for Youth

The much-anticipated renovation of the Youth Opportunity Center begins the February 9, with construction expected to last approximately 6-7 weeks. The new Youth Opportunity Center will provide a more youth friendly environment and will occupy 3,200 square feet of space on the second floor of the Career Transition Center.

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Network in the News

January 2008 Page 2

The Network Shares in Dr. King's Dream

There was celebration, sharing of information, as well as a sense of community at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace and Unity Parade and Celebration held on January 19. Network staff hosted a resource booth and shared with the community members information on the many ways we strive to provide employment services to a diverse population, including the Navigator program assisting those with disabilities, no-cost tax services to individuals and families that earn under \$50,000, expungement workshops, and materials and services available in Spanish and Khmer.



What's with Kids Today?

Hire A Youth

Here's what's with kids today – more than 9,000 hours of work and more than 3,300 hours of class work to prepare for entry into the workforce. Sixty-nine youth participating in the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network's (Pacific Gateway) Inspired Internship program graduated on Friday, January 25, at Dyer Hall on the campus of Long Beach City College, 1305 East PCH, Long Beach. The Inspired Internship Program is an exciting collaboration developed by the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network in partnership with the Industrial Education Council of Long Beach and Long Beach Unified School District's Regional Occupation Program



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